IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making a formed, dried lignocellulose fiber material, said method consisting ~~essentially~~ of:

(a) providing an aqueous lignocellulose fiber pulp slurry having an effective consistency;

(b) de-watering said slurry by applying a compression pressure to provide a de-watered material at an effective de-watering rate under an effective pressure to prevent or reduce the formation of fissures and voids within said material; and

(c) drying an effective amount of said de-watered material at an effective temperature and period of time to provide said formed, dried lignocellulose fiber material of a shape having a thickness of at least 5mm.

2. (Original) A method of making a formed, dried lignocellulose fiber material as defined in claim 1 wherein said formed, dried lignocellulose fiber material is minimally flawed.

3. (Original) A method as defined in claim 2 wherein said formed, dried lignocellulose fiber material is essentially fissure-free.

4. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein said lignocellulose fiber material has an average fiber length of less than 1.0cm.

5. (Original) A method as defined in claim 4 wherein said lignocellulose fiber material is a hardwood and said average fiber length is selected from about 0.5-1.0mm.

6. (Original) A method as defined in claim 4 wherein said lignocellulose fiber material is a softwood and said average fiber length is selected from about 1.0-4.0mm.

7. (Original) A method as defined in claim 4 wherein said lignocellulose fiber material is non-wood and said average fiber length is selected from about 0.5-10mm.

8. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein said aqueous lignocellulose fiber pulp slurry of step (a) has a fiber consistency of between 0.1 – 10% W/W.

9. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein said de-watered material produced by step (b) has a dry bulk density of between 0.1 – 0.9 g/cm^3.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein said de-watering step (b) is carried out to produce said de-watered material of a suitable form.

11. (Original) A method as defined in claim 9 wherein said form is of a shape having a thickness of at least 2 cm.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein said compression pressure is about 10-100 psi.

14. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein said lignocellulose fiber pulp is selected from the group consisting of bleached, unbleached, dried, undried, refined, unrefined, kraft, sulfite, mechanical, recycled and virgin wood and non-wood fiber pulps.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein said drying step (c) consists essentially of air drying.

16. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein said drying step (c) is carried out at a temperature and over a period of time to remove water to produce said de-watered material having a water content of no more than 5% W/W water.

17. (Original) A method as defined in claim 16 wherein said drying step (c) is carried out at a temperature and over a period of time to remove water to produce said de-watered material having a water content of no more than 3% W/W.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of making a lignocellulose fiber-resin composite material comprising the steps defined in claim 1 and further consisting ~~essentially~~ of the steps of

(d) impregnating said dried formed fiber material with a liquid thermoset resin under an effective pressure for an effective period of time to effect impregnation of said resin in said dried formed fiber material at a desired rate and to a desired degree to produce a resin-treated material; and

(e) curing said resin in said resin-treated material to produce said composite material.

19. (Original) A method as defined in claim 18 wherein said impregnation step (d) is carried out at a temperature of 5 – 25°C.

20. (Presented Previously) A method as defined in claim 18 further consisting essentially of form-pressing said resin-treated material prior to curing step (e).

21. (Presented Previously) A method as defined in claim 20 wherein said form-pressing step consisting essentially of extruding said material or sandwiching said material.

22. (Original) A method as defined in claim 18 wherein said curing step (e) is initially carried out at an effective temperature of below about 100°C.

23. (Original) A formed, dried lignocellulose fiber material when made by a process as defined in claim 1.

24. (Original) A formed dried lignocellulose fiber material as defined in claim 23, which is essentially fissure-free.

25. (Original) A formed, lignocellulose fiber-resin composite material when made by a process as defined in claim 18.

26. (Original) A formed lignocellulose fiber composite material as defined in claim 25, which is essentially fissure-free.

Claims 27-38 (Canceled)

39. (New) A method of making a formed, dried lignocellulose fiber material, said method consisting essentially of:

(a) providing an aqueous lignocellulose fiber pulp slurry;

(b) de-watering said slurry by applying a compression pressure to provide a de-watered material at an effective de-watering rate under an effective pressure to prevent or reduce the formation of fissures and voids within said material; and

(c) drying an effective amount of said de-watered material at a drying rate that avoids formation of fissures and period of time to provide said formed, dried lignocellulose fiber material of a shape having a thickness of at least 5 cm.

40. (New) A method of making a formed, dried lignocellulose fiber material, said method consisting essentially of:

(a) providing an aqueous lignocellulose fiber pulp slurry;

(b) de-watering said slurry by applying a compression pressure of about 10 to 100 psi in a perforated formation trough having fixed perforated side

plates, a perforated bottom and a mechanically driven perforated or solid plunger top such that as the plunger descends into the trough the slurry dewaters through the perforations until a bulk density of 0.1 to 0.9 g/cm^3 is obtained to provide a minimally flawed de-watered material having a substantial absence of fissures and voids within the de-watered material; and

(c) drying said de-watered material at a drying rate that avoid formation of fissures and period of time to provide said formed, dried lignocellulose fiber material of a shape having a thickness of at least 5mm.